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File

11 January 1957

HEW, but now four bureaus. Not only the Secretary. Then I offer to

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Security

SUBJECT: Request from Mr. Edward Hassell, Committee on Government Security

1. These are the questions that Ed Hassell wants a quick reaction to:

2. Would there be any advantage in extending the authority to classify documents to agencies who do not have it now? Note: Hassell tells me that under Executive Order 10501, 28 agencies are excluded altogether, and others are limited. Can we think of any that should be added?

3. What are the advantages or disadvantages of replacing Executive Order 10501 by specific legislation? Note: Evidently a number of public witnesses before the Moss Subcommittee have recommended that the matters covered by Executive Order 10501 should be covered by legislation. For example, one witness pointed to the fact that Executive Order 10501 does not specify any penalties for violations.

EO better, as easier I would if any minor changes necessary. Congress will see as S.O.

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4. Are there advantages or disadvantages to adding additional [redacted] classifications to the three now provided for in Executive Order 10501?

5. What can we do about the personal interpretation problem in document classification? Note: In other words, is there any way in which we could clean up the definitions of classification categories so that they would be less susceptible to different interpretations by different people. Evidently such words as "prejudicial to the national interest" means different things to just about everyone who reads them.

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Legislative Counsel

IG/LC [redacted]

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